



PRESS RELEASE

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Gov. Schwarzenegger Tours Long Beach Aquifer, Discusses Water Plan for Southern California

Focusing on the critical need for a comprehensive water plan and threats to Southern California's water supply due to the current drought conditions, Governor Schwarzenegger today toured the Long Beach Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project. The Governor called for the passage of his \$5.9 billion comprehensive water plan that will provide additional water storage, create conservation and efficiency measures, repair the fragile Delta and lead to the development of a modern conveyance system to reliably supply water to California's growing population and \$32 billion agriculture industry.

"The Long Beach Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project is one example of how our state and local systems work together to provide water to our cities. But this system only works if we have both water storage and conveyance - storage to collect the water and conveyance to move it, said Governor Schwarzenegger.

"Right now our water system is extremely vulnerable. For one thing, we haven't built a major state reservoir in more than 30 years and in that time our population has grown from 20 million to 37 million. We must solve California's water problems not only for today, but for 40 years from now.

The population in Los Angeles County is expected to increase by 3 million people by the year 2050.

Building on his Strategic Growth Plan from last year, the Governor introduced a \$5.9 billion comprehensive water plan in January. The Governor's plan invests \$4.5 billion to develop additional surface and groundwater storage, so we can protect communities against flooding and capture water from storms and snowmelt run-off to supply cities, farmers and business with water during drought conditions. The plan also includes \$1 billion toward restoration of the Delta, including development of a new conveyance system, \$250 million to support restoration projects on the Klamath, San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers and the Salton Sea project and \$200 million for grants to California communities to help conserve water for about 400,000 families.

Southern California relies on imported water for more than 60 percent of its drinking and agricultural supplies. Between 2000 and 2006, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California received 36 percent of its total supplies from the Delta. Over the same period, Southern California received 20 percent of its supplies from the Colorado River. The Colorado River Basin is in its eighth consecutive year of drought conditions.

This summer, drought conditions are causing water districts statewide to call for people to voluntarily cut their usage by ten percent. Two districts in Sonoma and Santa Cruz Counties have implemented mandatory rationing.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which provides water to 18 million people from Ventura County in the north to San Diego County in the south, is calling for users to reduce water consumption. In June, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa asked residents to reduce their personal water use by 10 percent. The Long Beach Water Department has called for greater conservation and is raising rates 5 ½ percent because of the

water shortage.

The Governor has proclaimed a State of Emergency in both Kings and Riverside Counties due to the drought.

As a result of California's last drought between 1987 and 1992, farmers suffered an \$800 million economic loss and Californians paid \$500 million more for energy as utilities were forced to substitute hydroelectric power with other, more expensive forms of energy. Among the numerous industries that were impacted, the landscape and gardening industry lost \$460 million and cut 5,600 jobs.

Last week, the Governor called for immediate actions to help fix the Delta, which is at risk of failing as a reliable water source. Climate models and current weather patterns require that we prepare for more severe floods, droughts and rising sea levels, which the Delta must be able to withstand to protect California's water supply.

The Governor has directed the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force to develop a Delta management plan. The task force will present its findings and recommendations by January 1, 2008 and its Strategic Plan by October 31, 2008. The Bay Delta Conservation Plan is also underway, being developed with broad participation from water agencies, environmental organizations and local representatives. The \$1 billion proposed in the Governor's comprehensive plan will be used to fund their recommendations.